FREE OMORI

The life of this man is at stake

ON March 26, 1976, a bomb exploded on the first floor of Hokkaido's government offices in Supporo City, Japan, killing two government officials and injuring 81. The action was claimed by the East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front, a group which carried out several bombings against Japanese government and corporate offices in support of indigenous movements against Japanese colonialism.

On August 10, 1976, Katsuhisa Omori was arrested by Japanese police and charged with the attack. Since then he has been imprisoned, and, in March 1983, was moved to Death Row.

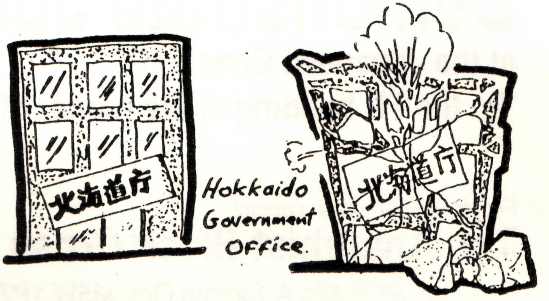
But why was this office bombed? Is he a violent man?

The offices attacked were those used to govern an island off of Japan known to the Japanese as Hokkaido. But the island is known to its indigenous people as Ainumoshiri, meaning "a place to live". The Ainu (or "people"), much like the Native people here in North America, were victim to a brutal colonisation by Japan after the Meiji restoration in 1868. They used the Ainu as slave labour, raped the wimmin, tried to kill them off by interbreeding, and stole their land. The Ainu are still subjected to the same kind of blatant racism and genocide practised here on Native people. So that's why the offices responsible for controlling their island were bombed, and why the injuries and deaths, though horrible, are unfortunately but a *small* incident compared to the history of death and destruction sustained by the Ainu.

Omori supports the Anti-Japan struggle, even though he is Japanese, because he understands how the Ainu feel.

But did he do it?

Do you have a fire extinguisher in your house? Do you take sugar in your coffee? Does your radio use batteries? Omori was convicted on such evidence — since he didn't own a fire extinguisher, he must have used it to make a bomb, right?! And they also said the only reason he had sugar and batteries must have been to make a bomb! Also, on the communiqué issued after the bombing there's a little handwritten mark. Now because no expert said that Omori *couldn't* have written it, the judge decided that proved he *did*! Somehow *lack* of evidence proves guilt!



Omori was hardly a darling of the courts to begin with, as he refused to reply

to interrogation, and he did vocally support the bombing although he didn't do it. Then he also tried to punch the judge, and he's known to sympathize with anarchists! But does this merit a **death sentence**?!

Death sentence?

The first trial of Omori began on February 8th, 1977. He refused to attend the first hearing to protest his innocence, but it was held in his absence.

On March 29th, 1983, District Judge Mitsunori Shojima sentenced Katsuhisa Omori to death by hanging. Shojima said Omori was a threat to society and deserved to die; then he turned round to the other two judges with a huge leer on his face!

Since then, all appeals by Omori have been rejected and now he faces his final appeal in the court of the third instance. If that fails, he will be sent to death. In Japan, no date is set for execution. It's carried out on the whim of the court, and family and friends are informed afterwards.

But why demonstrate here in Canada?

Past experience has shown that applying international pressure to a country often makes them back down. It's worked before and it's Omori's last chance. An injury to one is an injury to all, and we've gotta show it by helping Omori in his time of need. We have to stand in solidarity with polititcal prisoners worldwide and demand their freedom. Meanwhile, we show both the Japanese and Canadian governments that subjugation and destruction of Native cultures is unacceptable and will be met with resistance. That's a lesson they've both got to learn.

"Hokkaido, the Kwile Islands, and Sakhalin belong neither to Japan nor to the Soviet Union. They are the mother earth for such indigenous inhabitants as the Ainu, the Viltas, and the Gilyaks"

K. Omori, Jan. 21 '88

So what can I do to help?

- Attend a demonstration to support Omori and draw attention to this crime, Monday July 4, at 2:00 PM at the Japanese Consulate (in the TD Building at the corner of King and Bay Streets).
- Write or call the Japanese consulate at: The Japanese Consulate, Toronto Dominion Centre, suite 1803, P.O. Box 10, Toronto Ontario, Canada, M5K 1A1, tel: (416) 303-7038.

Demonstrate July 4, 2 pm

at the Japanese Consulate

(in the TD building at the corner of King and Bay Streets)

For more information contact:

The Anarchist Black Cross (Toronto)

P.O. Box 6326 Stn A Toronto Ont. M5W 1P7 tel:(416) 947-0808